

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE STANDING COMMITTEE**

March 31, 2021

1:29 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Mia Costello, Chair
Senator Roger Holland, Vice Chair
Senator Joshua Revak
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson (via teleconference)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Gary Stevens

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

CONFIRMATION HEARING(S)

Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers
William "Leon" McKean - Anchorage

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Real Estate Commission
Traci Heaton - Juneau

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Board of Marital & Family Therapy
Kayla Green - Eagle River

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives
Rachel Pugh - Eagle River

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Board of Chiropractic Examiners
John Lloyd - Anchorage

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Board of Pharmacy

Richard Holt - Eagle River

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

Fishermen's Fund Advisory and Appeals Council
Renee Weddle Alward - Homer

Occupational Safety & Health Review Board
Thomas Trosvig - Kodiak

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

State Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board
Jodi Pfeiffer - Wasilla

- CONFIRMATION ADVANCED

SENATE BILL NO. 86

"An Act relating to occupational licensing; relating to temporary licenses, permits, and certificates; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED CSSB 86(L&C) OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 86

SHORT TITLE: TEMPORARY PERMITS & LICENSES

SPONSOR(s): LABOR & COMMERCE

02/15/21	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/15/21	(S)	L&C, FIN
02/24/21	(S)	L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
02/24/21	(S)	Heard & Held
02/24/21	(S)	MINUTE(L&C)
03/26/21	(S)	L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
03/26/21	(S)	Heard & Held
03/26/21	(S)	MINUTE(L&C)
03/31/21	(S)	L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

WITNESS REGISTER

WILLIAM "LEON" MCKEAN, Appointee
Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers.

TRACI HEATON, Appointee
Real Estate Commission
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Real Estate Commission.

KAYLA GREEN, Appointee
Board of Marital and Family Therapy
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Eagle River

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Marital & Family Therapy.

RACHEL PUGH, Appointee
Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Eagle River

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives.

JOHN LLOYD, Appointee
Board of Chiropractic Examiners
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

RICHARD HOLT, PharmD; MBA; Appointee
Board of Pharmacy
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Eagle River, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified for reappointment to the Board of Pharmacy.

RENEE WEDDLE ALWARD, Appointee
Fishermen's Fund Advisory and Appeals Council
Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD)
Homer, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified for reappointment to the Fishermen's Fund Advisory and Appeals Council.

THOMAS TROSVIG, Appointee
Occupational Safety & Health Review Board

Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD)
Kodiak, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified for reappointment to the Occupational Safety & Health Review Board.

JODI PFEIFFER, MPT; Appointee
State Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Wasilla, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the State Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board.

DAVID NIELSEN, Chair representing self
Board of Dental Examiners
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: During the hearing on SB 86, discussed board concerns with similar legislation introduced last session.

SARA CHAMBERS, Director
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions and provided information on SB 86.

TAMMIE L. PERREAULT, Northwest Regional Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Joint Base Lewis McCord, Washington

POSITION STATEMENT: Stated support for SB 86.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[1:29:32 PM](#)

CHAIR MIA COSTELLO called the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:29 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Revak, Gray-Jackson (via teleconference), Holland, and Chair Costello.

CONFIRMATION HEARING(S)
Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers
Real Estate Commission
Board of Marital & Family Therapy
Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives
Board of Chiropractic Examiners
Board of Pharmacy

Fishermen's Fund Advisory and Appeals Council
Occupational Safety & Health Review Board
State Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board

[1:31:00 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO announced the consideration of Governor Appointees to Boards and Commissions. She explained the process to the nominees.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked William "Leon" McKean to introduce himself, provide a brief background, and share his interest in serving on the Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers.

[1:31:23 PM](#)

WILLIAM "LEON" MCKEAN, Appointee, Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Anchorage, Alaska, stated that he is a licensed mortgage lender who has been in the industry for more than 13 years. He started his career with Wells Fargo and joined Academy Mortgage in 2011. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Business Administration degree. He related that he and his family have lived in Alaska for more than 50 years. For nine years he volunteered on both the Armed Services YMCA Board of Directors and for the Special Olympics. He believes that his education, background, and professional experience will bring a unique and well-rounded perspective to the board. He said he wants to serve on this board because he believes the industry will undergo substantial change in the next 10 years and he would like to be part of the process. He pointed out that consumers face delays and higher costs because there is a shortage of appraisers and that this will be exacerbated as appraisers retire and depart and are not replaced by new appraisers. He said there is need for a system that supports and encourages the recruiting, training, and licensing of new and existing appraisers.

[1:34:48 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of William "Leon" McKean to the Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers; finding none, she closed public testimony. She expressed appreciation that he was willing to serve and for his volunteer work. She agreed that he is well-rounded.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Traci Heaton to introduce herself, provide a brief background, and share her interest in serving on the Real Estate Commission.

1:35:40 PM

TRACI HEATON, Appointee, Real Estate Commission, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Juneau, Alaska, reported that she followed her father's example and selected real estate as a career. She received her associate broker license five years after entering the field. Years later, she joined forces with her marriage and family counselor husband to co-author a parenting book and develop a company called Accountable Kids. Through this business, they attended an annual Alaska homeschool fair and in 2012 relocated to Juneau. In 2015, she received her Alaska real estate license and subsequently served five years on the Southeast Board of Realtors and simultaneously one year on the Alaska Association of Realtors. She is currently an associate broker and partner at Latitude 58, working fulltime as a realtor.

MS. HEATON said she is interested in serving on the Alaska Real Estate Commission to continue learning about the profession, to serve the public, and to grow both personally and professionally. She said she would fill PeggyAnn McConnochie's seat if confirmed and she would strive to continue PeggyAnn's dedication to real estate professionals and protection of the public.

CHAIR COSTELLO commented that striving to fill PeggyAnn's shoes is laudable; she is amazing both personally and professionally. She thanked Ms. Heaton for being willing to serve and bringing her talents to the commission.

SENATOR HOLLAND thanked her for being willing to serve and commended her for thinking outside the box to find solutions.

1:41:04 PM

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Traci Heaton to the Real Estate Commission; finding none, she closed public testimony.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Kayla Green to introduce herself, provide a brief background, and share her interest in serving on the Board of Marital and Family Therapy.

1:41:40 PM

KAYLA GREEN, Appointee, Board of Marital and Family Therapy, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Eagle River, stated that she is a life-long Alaskan who holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in human resources management. She said she has worked in healthcare in

various positions and is currently working in the real estate field. She has been serving on this board for over a year and she looks forward to continuing this service and building on the progress the board has made over the last year.

1:43:04 PM

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Kayla Green to the Board of Marital and Family Therapy; finding none, she closed public testimony. She thanked Ms. Green for her service, particularly during COVID-19.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Rachel Pugh to introduce herself, provide a brief background, and share her interest in serving on the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives.

1:43:33 PM

RACHEL PUGH, Appointee, Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Eagle River, stated that she has been a professional in birth work since 2009. This includes being a certified childbirth educator, a certified birth doula and doula trainer, and a state licensed and nationally certified direct-entry midwife. Since 2015, she has worked in a number of birth centers and currently she works in her own home-birth midwifery practice. She advised that she also travels to serve women in rural communities that have no local midwives. She stated that her reason for wanting to serve on this board is to work to ensure that women in Alaska have all the same birthing rights as women in the Lower 48. She highlighted that the first recommendation of both the 2016 and the 2020 legislative audit of this board was for statutory changes to benefit the public. She said the current statutes and regulations are outdated. They severely limit women's out-of-hospital birth choices and the ability for midwives to practice according to national standards and skills. She said the executive director and credentialing specialist at the North American Registry of Midwives supports the proposed statutory changes to align with national standards and skills. She said she looks forward to serving and helping to reduce board costs and increasing public safety to make Alaska one of the safest states for midwives to practice and moms to birth.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked what it entails to receive national certification as a direct-entry midwife.

MS. PUGH explained that it is first necessary to become a direct-entry midwife in the state. Then additional training and

education is required to receive a midwifery bridge certificate to become a nationally certified professional midwife (CPM). She holds both state and national certificates. She said being able to practice according to CPM standards allows more options for moms in Alaska.

[1:47:25 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Rachel Pugh to the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives; finding none, she closed public testimony. She thanked Ms. Pugh for being willing to serve in this capacity.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked John Lloyd to introduce himself, provide a brief background, and share his interest in serving on the Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

[1:47:54 PM](#)

JOHN LLOYD, Appointee, Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Anchorage, Alaska, stated that he has been in chiropractic practice for 22 years. He looks forward to serving on this board to help with the regulations, ensure the profession serves the public in all areas of the state, and to advance the profession.

[1:49:02 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of John Lloyd to the Board of Chiropractic Examiners; finding none, she closed public testimony. She thanked him for being willing to serve on this board.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Richard Holt to introduce himself, provide a brief background, and share his interest in serving on the Board of Pharmacy.

[1:49:35 PM](#)

RICHARD HOLT, PharmD; MBA; Appointee, Board of Pharmacy, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Eagle River, Alaska, stated that he has been a licensed and practicing pharmacist for more than 20 years and has been practicing in Alaska since 2011. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy and a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree as well as a Master of Business Administration degree. He said he was appointed to this board in 2016 and is seeking reappointment to continue to advance the practice of pharmacy in Alaska and to serve Alaskans. He said the board worked to ensure that the regulations met the needs of both pharmacies and patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. This included many emergency regulations.

He recounted his activities as a board member. This includes testifying about bills affecting the Board of Pharmacy, helping to write questions for the jurisprudence exam, collaborating with other boards on mutually related topics, presenting continuing education to licensees on behalf of the board, serving as vice-chair and chair of the board, participating in regulatory reviews to ensure simplicity and public protection, working with state investigators, and collaborating with other boards on the Prescription Monitoring Program.

CHAIR COSTELLO thanked him for his service and being willing to continue. She noted the technical difficulties with the audio.

1:52:39 PM

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Richard Holt to the Board of Pharmacy; finding none, she closed public testimony.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Renee Weddle Alward to introduce herself, provide a brief background, and share her interest in serving on the Fishermen's Fund Advisory and Appeals Council.

1:53:16 PM

RENEE WEDDLE ALWARD, Appointee, Fishermen's Fund Advisory and Appeals Council, Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), Homer, Alaska, advised that she is seeking reappointment to this board. She comes from a fishing family and also has experience in the family medical field. She said she would like to continue to serve on this board that works in the best interest of the commercial fishing fleet to keep individuals healthy and to assist with medical expenses that exceed a fisher's ability to pay. She noted the change in the last five years that increased the reimbursement of the deductible for protection and indemnity (P&I) insurance. This encouraged vessel owners to get and maintain crew coverage because they know that the fund can help them recover the deductible from their carriers. She highlighted the proposed regulation change to extend the date for the first treatment of an injury on a vessel from 60 days to 120 days. Fishermen who don't need treatment immediately could wait until the end of the season. She expressed appreciation for the other board members and hope that she would be confirmed for another term.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked her to explain the purpose of the fund and what the board spends the most time doing.

MS. ALWARD explained that a portion of the fees collected for commercial fishing licenses and permit cards is dedicated to the fishermen's fund. When a fisher's injury or illness is validated as fishing related, they can be reimbursed up to \$10,000 of their medical expenses. When a fisher's medical expenses exceed \$10,000, they can appeal to the council for an extension of benefits. The council meets twice a year to review cases that have been appealed to extend treatment beyond the \$10,000 limit.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked for the current balance in the account.

MS. ALWARD said she did not have the total, but it is healthy.

2:00:28 PM

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Renee Weddle Alward to the Fishermen's Fund Advisory and Appeals Council; finding none, she closed public testimony. She expressed appreciation for her passion and her service.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Thomas Trosvig to introduce himself, provide a brief background, and share his interest in serving on the Occupational Safety & Health Review Board.

2:01:07 PM

THOMAS TROSVIG, Appointee, Occupational Safety & Health Review Board, Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), Kodiak, Alaska, advised that he has served on this board continuously for 15 years and he is seeking another term. He related that he served 30 years in the US Coast Guard and is a trained USCG Marine casualty investigator and marine inspector. He served 12 years sea duty, mostly in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and the North Pacific. His last assignment was as commander of the 213 foot Alaska patrol vessel, Yocona, homeported in Kodiak. He said his shoreside specialty was marine safety and his last shore assignment was as the commanding officer and captain of the port in Sault Sainte Marie Michigan. He was also in charge of ice breaking operations on the northern Great Lakes. He also holds a 2,000 ton Master Oceans license. After retirement and for the past 15 years he has been employed as the safety security officer for Matson Navigation container shipping terminal in Kodiak where he deals daily with OSHA regulations. He said he serves on this board because his work experience, knowledge of OSHA, wealth of life experience, and common sense help in the interpretation of fair resolutions of both state and federal regulations. Further, he wishes to contribute to the health and safety of the Alaska workforce.

SENATOR HOLLAND thanked him for his interest and extensive service.

[2:04:08 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Thomas Trosvig to the Occupational Safety & Health Review Board; finding none, she closed public testimony. She echoed Senator Holland's comments.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Jody Pfeiffer to introduce herself, provide a brief background, and share her interest in serving on the State Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board.

[2:05:07 PM](#)

JODI PFEIFFER, MPT; Appointee, State Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Wasilla, Alaska, stated that she graduated as a physical therapist assistant (PTA) in 1994. For the past 27 years she has worked in various states and a variety of settings, including acute care, outpatient, skilled nursing facilities, long-term care, school district, and a wound care clinic. She has worked in Alaska since 2006. She holds both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree. She related that she has served in various elected and appointed positions in the state and national physical therapy associations. She currently is the PTA program director at UAA. She said that serving on this board will provide an opportunity to serve her profession and the public and be part of the regulatory process. She said she believes her service will give the board a more diverse perspective on issues and more reflective of the community it serves.

[2:07:03 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on the appointment of Jodi Pfeiffer to the State Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board; finding none, she closed public testimony. She thanked her for her passion and providing diversity to the board.

[2:07:19 PM](#)

SENATOR HOLLAND stated that in accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee reviewed the following and recommends the appointments be forwarded to a joint session for consideration:

Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers
William "Leon" McKean - Anchorage

Real Estate Commission

Traci Heaton - Juneau

Board of Marital & Family Therapy

Kayla Green - Eagle River

Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives

Rachel Pugh - Eagle River

Board of Chiropractic Examiners

John Lloyd - Anchorage

Board of Pharmacy

Richard Holt - Eagle River

Fishermen's Fund Advisory and Appeals Council

Renee Weddle Alward - Homer

Occupational Safety & Health Review Board

Thomas Trosvig - Kodiak

State Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board

Jodi Pfeiffer - Wasilla

Signing the reports regarding appointments to boards and commissions in no way reflects individual members' approval or disapproval of the appointees; the nominations are merely forwarded to the full legislature for confirmation or rejection.

CHAIR COSTELLO thanked Senator Holland and Senator Gray-Jackson who was listening online.

SB 86-TEMPORARY PERMITS & LICENSES

[2:08:34 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 86 "An Act relating to occupational licensing; relating to temporary licenses, permits, and certificates; and providing for an effective date."

She listed the individuals available to answer questions.

CHAIR COSTELLO solicited a motion to adopt Amendment 1.

[2:09:26 PM](#)

SENATOR HOLLAND moved Amendment 1, work order 32-LS0531\B.1.

AMENDMENT 1

OFFERED IN THE SENATE
TO: CSSB 86(L&C), Draft Version "B"

Page 2, line 4, following "10":
Insert "business"

[2:09:36 PM](#)

SENATOR REVAK objected for discussion purposes.

CHAIR COSTELLO explained that the Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing requested the amendment. On page 2, line 4 it adds the word "business" after the number "10" to clarify that the division would provide a military spouse with a temporary license 10 business days after receipt of the application.

[2:10:20 PM](#)

SENATOR REVAK removed his objection.

CHAIR COSTELLO found no further objection and Amendment 1 was adopted.

[2:10:32 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO opened public testimony on SB 86.

[2:10:45 PM](#)

DR. DAVID NIELSEN, Chair, Board of Dental Examiners, Anchorage, Alaska, stated that the board had not discussed SB 86 so he was not relaying the Board's official position. However, it is similar to a temporary license bill that was part of an omnibus bill last session that the board raised concerns about. The first concern was that the term "other jurisdiction" in Section 1 was too general. At least for the field of dentistry, he said it would need to specify jurisdictions within the US. This would make it clear that licensees from other countries would not qualify for a temporary license under that provision. The board also felt it was important that the board had control over the

boxes the department had to check when it was issuing a temporary permit.

He said he believes the bottleneck in issuing timely licenses and permits relates directly to the fact that the licensing examiner has an overwhelming workload. He noted that he was working with the fifth licensing examiner since his appointment to the board and that has not helped with expediency. Adding this temporary license might add to the workload, he said.

DR. NIELSEN stated support for the concept of the temporary license option as long as the board had control over the qualifications for who receives the temporary license and the power to revoke the license if something was uncovered that was disqualifying.

2:14:32 PM

CHAIR COSTELLO said she shares the concern about the workload, and it was her intention to add three positions and the budgetary increase so the department would be able to fulfill the requirements of the bill. The Finance Committee would look at that addition in more detail.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Ms. Chambers to talk about whether the applicants would go through the different licensure boards and whether the boards would control which applicants received a license.

2:16:16 PM

SARA CHAMBERS, Director, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED), Juneau, Alaska, speaking to the issue of board control, said the bill places the streamlining requirement and mandated timeline for issuing the license on the department's shoulders. The division's intent would be to work with each of the boards to ensure that the regulations address appropriate side-rails and interpretations. For example, a licensure requirement for Alaska engineers is to take an Arctic engineering course. To prevent a significant delay in licensure, the division could issue the temporary license with the side-rail that the individual could not build structures in Fairbanks and north until they had fulfilled that Arctic course requirement. They would not qualify for a permanent license until they met that requirement. She acknowledged that while that was her intent, it was not mandated. It was a policy decision the division was willing to work on with the committee, she said.

CHAIR COSTELLO highlighted that the bill takes effect January 1, 2022 and asked if the division could work with the licensure boards to draft the regulations so a board that wanted to address a particular issue through regulation would have that opportunity. She asked Ms. Chambers if she was willing to state publicly that she would work with the boards.

MS. CHAMBERS confirmed that her intent was to work directly with the boards to develop regulations that comply with the statute while maintaining public safety. She said this is particularly important in the areas where Alaska is a little different and has requirements that other states do not have.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked if the regulations would address all the boards or if some regulations would be unique to specific boards.

[2:19:46 PM](#)

MS. CHAMBERS replied, the department will have the authority to issue the license and they will develop the regulations, but the intention is to work with the individual boards on those regulations. She added, "Whether it's written to cover everybody or written specifically, we're going to have to find a way to put some reasonable limitations of practice that speak to those unusual, carveout sort of circumstances like the Arctic engineering example."

CHAIR COSTELLO referenced Dr. Nielsen's concern about jurisdiction and asked if she reads to bill to mean that the jurisdiction is within the US.

[2:21:28 PM](#)

MS. CHAMBERS replied she agrees with Dr. Nielsen that the language in the bill could be interpreted to apply to any jurisdiction. Nothing in the bill requires the license to be substantially equivalent to an Alaska license and if the department were to deny a temporary license because the individual held a foreign license, the case could be appealed to the Office of Administrative Hearings. If the intent is to limit the jurisdiction to the US, an amendment would clarify that, she said.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked her to restate the suggested language.

MS. CHAMBERS replied the department requested the term "substantial equivalency" for the similar proposal in a

governor's bill last year. She noted that foreign standards can vary widely from American standards and may not stipulate the education was conducted in English. Absent the suggested term, she said she agrees with Dr. Nielsen that the bill should clarify it is talking about a jurisdiction within the US.

CHAIR COSTELLO highlighted that certain boards oversee professions, such as dentistry or medicine, where the potential risk to the public is much greater than others if the licensee isn't adequately trained. She asked Ms. Chambers if she believes that temporary licenses should be available for every profession or if some should be exempted from this or similar legislation.

MS. CHAMBERS advised that many states have looked at that question and found no substantial difference between dentistry, medicine, or nursing across all US jurisdictions. She said most of the backlog in licensure is in those fields but having a tool like this bill offers would be helpful for all professions. She clarified that she would not give the same endorsement for a permanent license that could be renewed but a lot of safeguards are built into the process to allow temporary, nonrenewable licenses as a reasonable pathway for all licenses.

CHAIR COSTELLO asked Ms. Perreault if she had public testimony to offer on SB 86.

[2:26:58 PM](#)

TAMMIE L. PERREAULT, Northwest Regional Liaison, Defense-State Liaison Office, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Joint Base Lewis McCord, Washington, stated that SB 86 is a great opportunity for military spouses and her office appreciates the work that the department has done on the legislation. She said 16 states have enacted this type of legislation and people are realizing that for most professions the requirements are very similar from one state to another. She said that is why the Council of State Governments and the National Council of State Legislatures have been working to support this type of licensure reform. She reiterated support for SB 86.

[2:28:42 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO closed public testimony on SB 86.

[2:28:50 PM](#)

At ease

[2:31:51 PM](#)

CHAIR COSTELLO reconvened the meeting and explained that the offline discussion was about conceptually amending the bill to reflect that the jurisdiction where someone is licensed should be substantially equivalent to Alaska licensure requirements.

2:32:39 PM

SENATOR HOLLAND moved conceptual Amendment 2 to add "substantial equivalency" in Section 1, page 1, line 8, following the word "jurisdiction" with the understanding that Legislative Legal Services has authority to make technical changes.

CHAIR COSTELLO objected for questions or comments.

SENATOR REVAK said he appreciates the committee's effort on this bill because licensure is a big issue for the military community.

2:33:43 PM

CHAIR COSTELLO removed her objection; finding no further objection, conceptual Amendment 2 was adopted.

CHAIR COSTELLO solicited the will of the committee.

2:34:15 PM

SENATOR HOLLAND moved to report the CS for SB 86, work order 32-LS0531\B as amended, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

CHAIR COSTELLO found no objection and CSSB 86(L&C), was reported from the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee.

CHAIR COSTELLO thanked Dr. Nielson for his testimony and Director Chambers for stating her willingness to work with the boards to draft regulations that accommodate the particular boards. She noted that the bill would pick up a fiscal note to reflect the new positions. She further mentioned that the bill came out of the governor's disaster declaration.

2:37:08 PM

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Costello adjourned the Senate Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting at 2:37 p.m.